

REMARKSRejection of Claims 26, 27, 28, 30 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) – Gouin

The Patent Office rejected claims 26, 27, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,211,846 to Gouin (hereinafter “Gouin”). The deficiency in this rejection is that Gouin does not show capacitive coupling between its loop and dipole antennas as is required in claims 26 and 27. Further, column 3, lines 36-42 of Gouin specifically states that the loop antennas (1-4) and the dipole antennas (6-9) are completely decoupled. Also, Gouin does not disclose its dipole antennas (6-9) as being asymmetrical as is required in claims 29-30 of the present application. At column 2, lines 64-66 of Gouin, it states that each of its dipole antennas (6-9) is constituted by two segments extending symmetrically on either side of the midpoint at the bottom of the corresponding loop antenna 1-4. Therefore, since Gouin does not expressly or inherently disclosed each and every limitation of the rejected claims 26, 27, 29, and 30, this rejection cannot stand.

Rejection of Claims 14-16, 18, and 19 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) – Proctor

The Patent Office rejected claims 14-16, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,346,922 to Proctor et al. (hereinafter “Proctor”). Proctor does not disclose multiple transponders coupled to antennas like that claimed in claim 14 of the present invention. Claims 15-16 and 18-19 depend from claim 14 and therefore include this limitation and also the same deficiency in the Proctor reference. Therefore, since Proctor does not expressly or inherently disclosed each and every limitation of the rejected claims 14-15, 18, and 19, this rejection cannot stand.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 8-13, 21, 24, 25, 31, 32, 34, and 36 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) – Gouin, Carr & Lake

The Patent Office rejected claims 1, 3-5, 8-13, 21, 24, 25, 31, 32, 34, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gouin in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 4,433,336 to Carr (hereinafter “Carr”) and U.S. Patent No. 6,089,458 to Lake (hereinafter “Lake”). Claim 1 of the present invention requires that an interrogator selectively interrogates one of three antennas, two of which are loop antennas and one of which is a pole antenna, to communicate at three different operating frequencies. None of the patents cited in this rejection show a communication

electronics interrogator that is capable of selectively interrogating a device at one of three frequencies by selectively communicating with one of these three antennas like the configurations claimed in claim 1. Claims 3-5 and 8-13, 21, 24, and 25 include the same limitation and therefore the same deficiency in the prior art. Claims 31, 32, 34 and 36 depend from claim 29. As discussed above in the rejection of claim 29 in view of Gouin, because claim 29 includes a limitation of a asymmetrical dipole antenna that is not taught or suggested in Gouin, the combination of these references in this rejection do not teach or suggest all of the limitations in claims 29 and claims 31, 32, 34, and 36. MPEP 2143.03.

It is not necessary for the Applicant to address the Carr and Lake references to overcome this rejection due to the deficiency in Gouin, but Applicant reserves the right to do so in the future if needed, without prejudice.

Rejection of Claims 2, 6, 17, 22, 23, and 33 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) –
Gouin, Carr, Lake & Proctor

The Patent Office rejected claims 2, 6, 17, 22, 23, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gouin, Carr, and Lake in view of Proctor. Claims 2, 6, and 17 depend from claim 1 and include the same deficiency with respect to Gouin as previously described above. Since claims 2, 6 and 17, by their dependency on claim 1, include at least one limitation that is not taught or suggested by the references in this rejection, this rejection cannot stand. MPEP 2143.03. Claim 22 depends from claim 21 and includes the same deficiency as previously described under the rejection above. MPEP 2143.03. Since claim 22, by its dependency from claim 21, includes at least one limitation that is not taught or suggested by the references in this rejection, this rejection cannot stand. Claim 33 depends from claim 29 and includes the same deficiency with respect to Gouin as previously described above. Since claim 33, by its dependency from claim 29, includes at least one limitation that is not taught or suggested by the references in this rejection, this rejection cannot stand. MPEP 2143.03.

It is not necessary for the Applicant to address the Carr, Lake, and Proctor references to overcome this rejection due to the deficiency in Gouin, but Applicant reserves the right to do so in the future if needed, without prejudice.

Rejection of Claim 35 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) – Gouin & Ehlers

Claim 35 was rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gouin in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,727,596 to Ehlers (hereinafter “Ehlers”). Claim 35 depends from claim 34, which depends from claim 29, and it includes the same deficiency with respect to Gouin as previously described above. Since claim 35, by its dependency from claim 29 via claim 34, includes at least one limitation that is not taught or suggested by the references in this rejection, this rejection cannot stand. MPEP 2143.03.

It is not necessary for the Applicant to address the Ehler reference to overcome this rejection due to the deficiency in Gouin, but Applicant reserves the right to do so in the future if needed, without prejudice.

Rejection of Claim 35 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) –
Gouin, Carr, Lake, Proctor & Goff

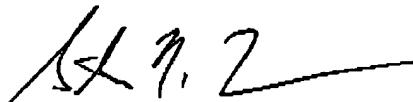
Claims 7, 20, and 28 were rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gouin, Carr, Lake, and Proctor in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,154,137 to Goff et al. (hereinafter “Goff”). Claim 7 depends from claim 1 and includes the same deficiency with respect to Gouin as previously described above. Since claim 7, by its dependency from claim 1, includes at least one limitation that is not taught or suggested by the references in this rejection, this rejection cannot stand. MPEP 2143.03. Claim 20 depends from claim 14 and includes the same deficiency as previously described for claim 14. Since claim 20, by its dependency from claim 14, includes at least one limitation that is not taught or suggested by the references in this rejection, this rejection cannot stand. MPEP 2143.03. Claim 28 depends from claim 26 and includes the same deficiency with respect to Gouin as previously described above. Since claim 28, by its dependency from claim 26, includes at least one limitation that is not taught or suggested by the references in this rejection, this rejection cannot stand. MPEP 2143.03.

It is not necessary for the Applicant to address the Carr, Lake, Proctor, and Goff references to overcome this rejection due to the deficiency in Gouin, but Applicant reserves the right to do so in the future if needed, without prejudice.

Respectfully submitted,

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